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March 2, 2003

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The Honorable John Conyers, Jr.
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
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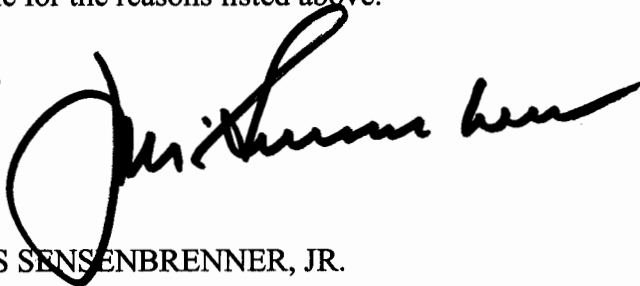
Dear Mr. Conyers:

Thank you for your recent request for an immediate Committee hearing to examine allegations of misconduct in the University of Colorado's (UC) football program. While I share your concern about the significance of these allegations, immediate Committee consideration of this issue is premature for a number of reasons.

First, Colorado law enforcement authorities are currently conducting an investigation into allegations of serious criminal misconduct. Given the serious criminal allegations that have surfaced, a Committee examination of this matter at this time is likely to impede or prejudice the outcome of the pending investigation. Second, the University of Colorado's Board of Regents recently formed an investigative panel to examine allegations of sexual misconduct in UC's football program. Third, Colorado Governor Bill Owen has named Colorado Attorney General Ken Salazar as a special prosecutor to investigate this matter. The seriousness of the response by Colorado authorities reflects the gravity of these accusations. While this issue is of critical importance, a Committee hearing at this time would undermine the ability of Colorado authorities to receive, assess, and prosecute criminal misconduct at a critical moment in the investigative process.

I will continue to closely monitor the conduct of this investigation by Colorado authorities into these very serious allegations. While a possible future hearing to consider this and similar issues can not be ruled out, Committee consideration of misconduct by CU's football program will be postponed at this time for the reasons listed above.

Sincerely,



F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.
CHAIRMAN

FJS/rt